



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 21 April 2006

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

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<http://www.dhs.gov/>

Daily Highlights

- Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff and Julie L. Myers, Assistant Secretary for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, have unveiled a comprehensive immigration enforcement strategy for the nation's interior, as part of the second phase of the Secure Border Initiative. (See item [21](#))
- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents have arrested seven managers of a nationwide pallet company and 1,187 of the firm's illegal alien employees in 26 states. (See item [22](#))
- The New York Times reports almost 1,000 people have contracted the mumps disease in the Midwest after the epidemic began in Iowa, partly because the vaccine has only about an 80 percent efficacy rate for people who have been inoculated with one dose. (See item [30](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *April 21, Cincinnati Post* — Northern Kentucky hit by power outage triggered by mudslide. A three-hour mid-morning power outage in Northern Kentucky affected about 13,000 customers in Newport, Bellevue, Dayton, and Fort Thomas on Tuesday, April 18,

according to Duke Energy officials. Customers lost power just after 9 a.m. EDT, when a mudslide along Kentucky highway 8 pushed a tree onto a transmission line. Many homes and businesses across the four riverfront cities remained powerless for most of the morning.

Source: <http://news.cincypost.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060419/NEWS01/604190387/1010/RSS01>

2. *April 21, Sun Times (IL)* — **Peoples Gas faces pipe inspection fine.** Peoples Gas could face up to \$1 million in fines for allegedly failing to properly inspect underground steel distribution pipes for corrosion, according to the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC). The ICC staff plans to review possible employee falsification of records, calling Peoples' reports about corrosion control of "questionable accuracy" and sometimes "entirely unverifiable." The ICC ordered a proceeding to determine whether the utility that supplies natural gas to Chicago failed to adequately conduct corrosion monitoring and failed to test pipes on a federally mandated schedule. The steel pipes make up 30 percent of the utility's gas delivery system. Rod Sierra, a spokesperson for utility parent Peoples Energy, said ICC staff obtained readings for corrosion on some pipes that varied from the readings Peoples found. He said the company takes the variations "very seriously" and has responded with its own investigation. ICC staff reported problems with Peoples corrosion inspections in 2004 and 2005, and Peoples had promised to address the issues. Peoples has hired two independent industry experts to review the company's compliance.

Source: <http://www.suntimes.com/output/business/cst-fin-peoples20.ht ml>

3. *April 20, Bloomberg* — **Nigeria LNG resumes sales of fuel after eight-month halt from leak, fire.** Nigeria LNG Ltd. resumed liquefied natural gas (LNG) sales for immediate delivery after an eight-month halt caused by a pipeline leak and a production-plant fire. Nigeria LNG sold two spot cargoes this month from its plant in Bonny Island, said Uneku Shehu, a company marketing official in Lagos. The Bonny Island facility is the biggest natural-gas project in Nigeria, holder of Africa's largest gas reserves. Nigeria now supplies about seven percent of the world's LNG. Dwindling gas production in U.S. and Europe is driving users to seek the fuel further away in areas such as the Middle East, Africa and Australia, Shell said last month. "Nigeria is a key producer to balance supply in the Atlantic Basin and will send cargoes to either continent, depending on where the price is the highest," Francisco Blanch of Merrill Lynch, said. Nigeria LNG started sales to the U.S. in January this year and hopes to expand their sales there with its new production. By 2020, imports to the U.S. are likely to come from the Middle East, South America, Australia, Europe, and the Caribbean, said Roland Kupers, vice-president for global LNG at Shell, at a conference last month.

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/markets/energy.html>

4. *April 19, Reuters* — **Average gasoline price may hit \$3 a gallon: Govt.** The price of regular unleaded gasoline could hit a national average of \$3 a gallon this year, the Energy Information Administration (EIA) said on Wednesday, April 19. "Some stations have already posted prices for regular gasoline that exceed \$3 per gallon and it is certainly possible that average retail prices across the country could reach that level sometime this year," the EIA said in its weekly review of the oil market. The agency said U.S. gasoline production should increase as oil refineries undergoing maintenance return to full operations over the next several weeks. That should slow the rise in pump prices and may actually cause them to decline. Pump prices have shot up 29 cents over the last three weeks.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20060419/us_nm/energy_gasoline_price_dc_1

5. *April 19, Bloomberg News* — **Gulf of Mexico: plenty of repairs still to go.** Six weeks before this year's hurricane season begins in the Gulf of Mexico, the oil and gas industry is far from finished repairing the damage done by last year's storms. Divers have yet to inspect half of the platforms hit by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Dennis. Some crews that are usually available to fix platforms and oilrigs are permanently shutting smaller wells that aren't worth restoring. About 22 percent of Gulf oil production and 13 percent of gas production is still out of service, according to a government report Wednesday, April 19. About 1,500 offshore platforms have yet to be assessed for underwater damage because of shortages of divers and boats, said Caryl Fagot of the U.S. Minerals Management Service. "We don't have the resources where we can run out and inspect everything that we have to inspect in the timeframe that we have to do it," said Allen Verret of the Offshore Operators Committee. About 90 million cubic feet of daily gas production and 25,500 barrels of oil output will never come back, according to the Minerals Management Service. The numbers could rise as more platforms are inspected, analysts said.
Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/business/3805710.html>

6. *April 19, Associated Press* — **Tiny reactor pumps out biodiesel.** A small chemical reactor that can convert vegetable oil directly into biodiesel could help farmers turn some of their crops into homegrown fuel to operate agricultural equipment instead of relying on costly imported oil. The device — about the size of a credit card — pumps vegetable oil and alcohol through tiny parallel channels, each smaller than a human hair, to convert the oil into biodiesel almost instantly. By comparison, it takes more than a day to produce biodiesel with current technology. The microreactor under development eliminates the mixing, the standing time, and maybe even the need for a catalyst used in conventional production. The device is small, but it can be stacked in banks to increase production levels to the volume required for commercial use. Biodiesel production on the farm also could reduce distribution costs by eliminating the need for tanker truck fuel delivery, part of the growing effort to meet fuel demand locally — instead of relying on distant refineries and tanker transport.
Source: http://www.wired.com/news/wireservice/0,70702-0.html?tw=wn_index_5

7. *April 19, Fort Worth Star-Telegram (TX)* — **Narrowing margin: Power outages show shrinking surplus, prompt questions.** Despite 99-degree temperatures Tuesday, April 18, Texas avoided a repeat of the two-hour rolling electrical blackouts caused by an overloaded grid that cut power temporarily to more than 600,000 North Texas homes and businesses Monday, April 17. But state planners have plenty of reason to worry about future electricity needs. The state's surplus of electricity, a robust 20 percent or more at the beginning of this decade, is expected to be no more than 11 percent by 2010 because of population growth, the retirement or mothballing of older plants, and a slowdown in the construction of new generators, which marked the late 1990s. The margin during the peak electricity use periods in summer air-conditioning season will be even narrower, according to estimates from the operator of the state's electricity grid. Public Utility Commission Chairman Paul Hudson said it's too early to know what caused the blackouts or whether there was any inappropriate "gaming" by market participants. At the height of the shortage, the price of reserve wholesale power soared to levels six to ten times higher than typical.
Source: <http://powermarketers.net/contentinc.net/newsreader.asp?ppa=8knpp%5E%5BgmmmqoRTnkt9K%22bfe1%5Dv>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

8. *April 19, Local 6 (FL)* — **Fire ignites at Orlando Hazmat facility.** A chemical fire at the Premafix building, which deals with highly toxic and hazardous materials, forced officials to close a road near Orlando International Airport early Wednesday, April 19. Overhead sprinklers in the building were able to contain most of the flames, but the smoke posed a hazard. The chemicals that burned included calcium hydrochloride.
Source: <http://www.local6.com/news/8819100/detail.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

9. *April 20, Aviation Now* — **Defense officials outline long-range, global strike plans.** The U.S. Air Force's analysis of alternatives (AOA) for a new long-range strike bomber awaits formal approval by the Pentagon's acquisition chief, while the service's prompt global strike concept's AOA is about to be published, Air Force Brig. Gen. Andrew Dichter said Wednesday, April 19. "This thing is hung up largely because of the complexity of the discussions of global strike," Dichter said about the new bomber, slated for 2018. Most observers agree that fleet delivery will require \$15–\$50 billion, he added, and that the bomber will sport low-observable stealth technology. But debate continues over speed, number of engines, payload capacity, whether it should feature just munitions or the full suite of AESA radar and air-to-air missiles, and range with or without refueling.
Source: http://www.aviationnow.com/avnow/news/channel_aerospacedaily_story.jsp?id=news/GS04206.xml
10. *April 20, Defense Industry Daily* — **NATO countries: 2005 defense expenditures.** Each year, NATO publishes updated figures on its members' defense expenditures, based on the NATO definition of the term. Data is also provided with respect to key outside entities. The alliance has been doing this since 1963, and expenditures are available in PDF, HTML, or Excel format. Defense expenditures document: <http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2005/p05-161.pdf>
Notes on document: <http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2005/p05-161e.htm>
Source: <http://www.defenseindustrydaily.com/2006/04/nato-countries-2005-defense-expenditures/index.php>

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Banking and Finance Sector

11. *April 20, CSO Online* — **A \$15 million penalty.** In January, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) levied a landmark \$15 million penalty against data broker ChoicePoint because it allowed criminals posing as businesses to access the personal data of 163,000 consumers. Of that sum, \$5 million is being used to create a fund for victims of fraud or identity theft due to

the data breach. Now, the FTC needs to find victims, quantify losses, and determine how much will it take to compensate victims of such a massive breach. Chris Keller of the FTC's new Division of Privacy and Identity Protection, says that with a very narrow exception, the fund cannot be used to reimburse victims for lost time or other intangibles. The FTC is working with law enforcement and creditors to determine exactly whose information has been misused. Of particular concern are the 10,000 consumers for whom ChoicePoint gave out full credit reports. Keller says such data "permits the identity thief to see if a person's identity is worth stealing...My expectation — and this gets into the realm of speculation — would be that those 10,000 [identities] would either be used fairly quickly or not at all."

Source: <http://www.csoonline.com/read/040106/penalty.html>

12. *April 20, Finextra* — **BaFIN IT chief arrested for fraud scam.** The head of IT at Germany's financial services regulator BaFIN has been charged with corruption for his part in a fraud scam that allegedly netted him millions in bribes. According to press reports, the technology chief, who has not been named, was arrested on charges of corruption and breach of fiduciary duty following a nine-month investigation by Germany's Federal Audit Office. Bonn prosecutor Friedrich Apostel said that the employee teamed with a friend from outside BaFIN to set up a consulting company which was allegedly used to launder funds. The company is thought to have received millions in orders since 2003. Some orders were never fulfilled and were used to disguise payments.

Source: <http://finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=15205>

13. *April 19, Websense Security Labs* — **Phishing Alert: AmSouth Bank.** Websense Security Labs has received reports of a new phishing attack that targets customers of AmSouth Bank, which operates in Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, and Florida. Users receive a spoofed e-mail message, which claims that the security on their account will not be guaranteed unless the information on the account is updated. This message provides a link to a phishing Website that prompts users to enter account information.

Source: <http://www.websensesecuritylabs.com/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=467>

14. *April 19, CNET News* — **Microsoft adds another antiphishing partner.** Microsoft has added another data provider to its list of allies in the fight against phishing. Cyveillance has joined InternetIdentity, MarkMonitor, and RSA Security's Cyota in providing Microsoft with information on known phishing attacks. That information is used for a phishing shield that can be downloaded for the MSN Toolbar and is built into the new Windows Live Toolbar and Internet Explorer 7. The additional partners will help Microsoft offer the phishing shield to customers in non-English-speaking geographies, said Michael Aldridge of Microsoft. Currently, Microsoft offers protection against the scams only in English versions of the applicable software, he said. Filters that protect against such scams typically use blacklists that prevent the user from surfing to known fraudulent Websites. Microsoft's tools are examples of such filters. Others are provided by companies including eBay, Netcraft, and EarthLink. Web browsers from Opera and AOL also include filters and one is slated for Firefox 2.0. Aldridge would not say when the international phishing protection would ship. The Windows Vista ship date (projected for early next year) could be an indicator, since that next release of the operating system will have the feature built-in.

Source: [http://news.com.com/Microsoft+adds+another+antiphishing+part
ner/2100-1029_3-6063049.html?tag=cd.top](http://news.com.com/Microsoft+adds+another+antiphishing+partner/2100-1029_3-6063049.html?tag=cd.top)

15. *April 19, KSL TV 5 (UT)* — **Scammers claim to be calling from Life Flight.** A new Life Flight scam is taking off in Salt Lake City, UT, with people impersonating law enforcement or Life Flight officials to steal money. The hoax is conducted over the telephone, where the impersonators make up a story about a serious accident and then take advantage of a family's emotional state. Sara Mower got a call from someone claiming to be the Utah Highway Patrol. They said her brother had been in a serious car accident, that he was in critical condition and needed to be Life-Flighted. A supposed nurse joined the call to give additional details. "She said to me before life flight can take off, we need you to transfer \$950 dollars through Western Union as a co-pay," Mower said. Mower said she didn't think twice about the money. Life Flight spokesperson Jess Gomez says the person making the call likely has stolen the individual's cell phone and found the family member who receives the call in the contact list. The FBI says they're looking into the hoax to see if it's happening in other areas of the country as well.

Source: <http://www.ksl.com/index.php?nid=148&sid=219674>

16. *April 19, Times (UK)* — **Virtual credit cards stay one step ahead of identity thieves.** Customers concerned that their credit-card details might be compromised when they shop online can now take advantage of a new type of card that gives them a "temporary" number for each transaction. Although the number is linked to the customer's account, it is valid only for the transaction for which it has been issued, meaning that if the number were later to be stolen from the vendor's database, it would be of little value to the thief. The cards, known as "virtual credit cards", are popular in the U.S., France, and Sweden, but have been slow to take off in Britain since the technology was introduced six years ago. Barclays Bank said that it had recently conducted trials of a calculator-sized device that displays a temporary number on a screen after the customer has inserted the card and typed in his PIN. The device validates the PIN and displays a number valid only for the next transaction made, thus protecting the customer against fraud. The service will be rolled out for Barclay card customers if further tests prove successful. Virtual credit cards are offered by Citibank and MBNA in the U.S.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0.2933.192179.00.html>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

17. *April 20, GovExec* — **DHS to look at alternatives to defend jets from missiles.** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is looking into alternative systems to protect commercial airliners from the threat of shoulder-fired missiles. DHS last week released a solicitation for help in evaluating systems to defend against Man Portable Air Defense Systems, or MANPADS. The department already is in the midst of a high-profile counter-MANPADS program that involves adapting military technology for use on commercial jets. But last week's solicitation specifically seeks other kinds of technology. The program will evaluate systems that are based on existing component technologies, rather than new ones, the solicitation stated. "The counter-MANPADS program has been going on for a few years, and it's been all directed towards technologies on airborne platforms," said Larry Orluskie, a DHS spokesperson. "What we're looking for here in this announcement is other technologies." The analysis of ground-based systems will be limited to the airports in Denver; Las Vegas; Los Angeles;

Newark, NJ; San Diego; and the Washington National Airport.

Source: http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33873&dcn=to_daysnews

18. *April 20, USA TODAY* — **American Airlines reports quarterly loss, but less than last year's.** Higher fares and cargo fees helped the parent of American Airlines, the world's biggest carrier, to narrow its first-quarter loss despite big increases in fuel prices. Fort Worth-based AMR said Wednesday it lost \$92 million, or 49 cents a share, in the period ended March 31. That improved on the year-ago loss of \$162 million, or \$1 a share. AMR is the first among domestic airlines to report results from a quarter in which the industry raised fares but battled continuing high fuel prices. American had some success in generating more revenue and cutting costs, but its fuel bill increased \$349 million from the year-ago quarter. American late Tuesday, April 19, raised the price of most of its round-trip domestic fares by \$10. Rivals could follow by week's end. American also said it will park 27 of its older, gas-guzzling MD-80 jets by July 1. American will save about \$10 million this year and about \$60 million in the next several years if the planes aren't returned to service, said CFO Tom Horton. Southwest is expected to report its 59th consecutive quarterly profit, while Continental and Alaska airlines are expected to report much smaller losses than the first quarter of 2005.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2006-04-19-american-e_arn_x.htm

19. *April 20, Transportation Security Administration* — **TSA announces next steps for registered traveler program.** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) on Thursday, April 20, announced its intent to proceed with Registered Traveler (RT) in the second half of 2006. TSA will be prepared for a rollout at 10 to 20 airports. These airports will come on line as the private sector operators make the necessary business arrangements with host airports and air carriers and get security approval from TSA for the proposed configuration. A phased approach to implementation will allow the agency to confirm the private sector's ability to provide interoperability among RT airports, evaluate the impact of alternate checkpoint processes on screening and wait times, and ensure that RT maintains the agency's high security standards. Subject to public demand for the RT Program, TSA would expect RT to operate on a national scale next year. The administrator for TSA, Kip Hawley, said, "Security will be maintained, the program will be paid for by the private sector, and it will not disadvantage the general public when they fly." As part of this decision, Department of Homeland Security and TSA leadership have approved a basic business model for Registered Traveler.

Source: http://www.tsa.gov/public/display?theme=44&content=090005198_01cdf0d

20. *April 20, Associated Press* — **Computer software blamed for Atlanta airport bomb scare.** The security scare in Atlanta that snarled air traffic on Wednesday, April 19, was triggered by a software malfunction. The head of the Transportation Security Administration, Kip Hawley, said a screener at Atlanta's airport tried to signal a routine security test when she spotted what looked like an explosive in an X-ray scanner. Hawley said the alert failed and all the security checkpoints at Hartsfield-Jackson International were shut down. Hawley apologized for the delays, but said he's pleased with the security officers' performance.

Source: <http://ww2.wpri.com/Global/story.asp?S=4796502>

21. *April 20, Department of Homeland Security* — **Department of Homeland Security unveils comprehensive immigration enforcement strategy for the nation's interior.** Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Michael Chertoff and Julie L. Myers, Assistant Secretary

for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), on Thursday, April 20, unveiled a comprehensive immigration enforcement strategy for the nation's interior. The new interior enforcement strategy represents the second phase of the Secure Border Initiative (SBI), which is the Department of Homeland Security's multi-year plan to secure America's borders and reduce illegal migration. The first phase of the SBI remains focused on gaining operational control of the nation's borders through additional personnel and technology, while also re-engineering the detention and removal system to ensure that illegal aliens are removed from this country quickly and efficiently. The interior enforcement strategy will complement the Department's border security efforts by expanding existing efforts to target employers of illegal aliens and immigration violators inside this country, as well as the many criminal networks that support these activities. The primary objectives are to reverse the tolerance of illegal employment and illegal immigration in the United States. DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff said, "Illegal immigration poses an increasing threat to our security and public safety, and hard-hitting interior enforcement will reinforce the strong stance we are taking at our borders." Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=5546>

22. *April 20, Department of Homeland Security* — **ICE agents arrest seven managers of a pallet company and 1,187 of the firm's illegal alien employees in 26 states.** Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Michael Chertoff; Julie L. Myers, Assistant Secretary for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE); and Glenn T. Suddaby, United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York, on Thursday, April 20, announced the results of a nationwide worksite enforcement operation targeting IFCO Systems North America, Inc. ("IFCO"), the largest pallet services company in the United States headquartered in Houston, TX. On Wednesday, April 19, ICE agents arrested seven current and former managers of IFCO pursuant to criminal complaints issued in the Northern District of New York. All these individuals are charged with conspiring to transport, harbor, and encourage and induce illegal aliens to reside in the United States for commercial advantage and private financial gain, in violation of Title 8, USC Section 1324 (a). The conspiracy charge carries a penalty of up to 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000 for each alien with respect to whom the violation takes place. Two other IFCO employees were arrested on criminal charges relating to fraudulent documents. ICE Assistant Secretary Myers said, "This nationwide enforcement action shows how we will use all our investigative tools to bring these individuals to justice, no matter how large or small their company." Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=5547>

23. *April 19, Associated Press* — **Police rescue 69 suspended in cable car above NYC's East River.** All 69 people trapped for hours in two cable cars that were suspended above the East River after losing power have been rescued, police said Wednesday, April 19. The passengers became stranded around 5:15 p.m. EDT Tuesday, April 18, and police worked through the night, plucking them one by one from the dangling cars and hoisting them onto a gondola. The rescue effort ended around 5 a.m. on Wednesday. At least a dozen of those stranded were school-age children or babies. Police delivered food, water, and diapers to the passengers. The cause of the outage of the Roosevelt Island Tramway cars was not known, said Herb Berman, president of the agency that operates the system, which offers breathtaking views of the city from up to 250 feet high. Lynn Krogh, spokesperson for New York Governor George Pataki, said the state Department of Labor would conduct a full investigation and review of the incident and the tram before service was allowed to resume.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-04-19-nyc-cable-car_s_x.htm

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

24. *April 20, Philippine Star* — Strange virus killing piglets in Bulacan. A strange fatal virus causing diarrhea among piglets in Bulacan, Philippines, has continued to baffle veterinarians who now fear that if the viral ailment spreads, there could be a shortage of pork in Metro Manila in three months. Jose Carillo, chief of the veterinary disease prevention and regulatory division of the Bulacan provincial government, told The STAR that at least five medium-sized swine farms have been placed under full quarantine amid reports that the viral diarrhea is highly contagious. He said cases of the diarrheal virus were reported in the contiguous towns of Pandi, Sta. Maria and Marilao. He said newly born piglets seem to be more susceptible to the ailment up to their weaning period or about 30 to 40 days after birth. Some piglets were reported to have died. Carillo cited the need for "virus security" measures similar to those adopted during outbreaks of the foot-and-mouth disease.

Source: <http://www.philstar.com/philstar/news200604209901.htm>

25. *April 19, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service* — Potato cyst nematode detected in Idaho. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in coordination with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) Wednesday, April 19, announced a confirmed finding of potato cyst nematode in a soil sample collected from a potato processing facility in Idaho. The nematode can reduce the yield of potatoes and other crops. There is no sign that the quality of tubers grown in Idaho has been affected. Two cysts — the size of pinheads — were found in a soil sample sent for testing at the University of Idaho. The university identified the cysts as that of the potato cyst nematode. This is the first time the potato cyst nematode has been found in the U.S. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and ISDA scientists have isolated the origin of the cysts to two fields, totaling approximately 500 acres, on a farm in Idaho. APHIS is in the process of placing the two fields under quarantine and will conduct extensive sampling of the soil in cooperation with ISDA to determine whether additional potato cyst nematodes are present. APHIS and ISDA are also working to trace the origin of the seed that was planted in these fields.

Source: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2006/04/potatocysts_ppq.shtml

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Food Sector

Nothing to report.

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Water Sector

26. *April 20, Associated Press* — **Montana emerging from drought.** Montana appears to be emerging from its seven-year drought, with average to above-average mountain snowpack and widespread spring rain leading experts to issue the best water supply outlook since 1997. A year ago, 20 of the state's 56 counties were plagued by severe drought. Today, reports show all but six counties are considered drought-free, and severe conditions persist in just one – Carbon County. Soil moisture levels are also way above last year at this time, fire danger is low, and most reservoirs are rising. And initial forecasts included in a 2006 drought outlook report show conditions are likely to stay rosy for a while, with the National Climate Prediction Center forecasting average precipitation and cooler-than-normal temperatures from June to August. Source: http://www.spokesmanreview.com/tools/story_pf.asp?ID=127060
27. *April 20, WLOX-TV (MS)* — **Drought continues dry grip in South Mississippi.** Rainfall in South Mississippi is far below normal and the bad news is that there's little relief in sight. So far this year, the rainfall total is just over two inches. That's more than five times below normal. April has been especially dry, with only .01 of an inch so far. South Mississippi isn't alone in the drought; according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, more than half the country is experiencing conditions from "abnormally dry" to "extreme drought." U.S. Drought Monitor: <http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html> Source: <http://www.wlox.com/Global/story.asp?S=4791793&nav=6DJI>

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Public Health Sector

28. *April 20, Reuters* — **China confirms human bird flu death.** A man in central China has died of bird flu, the official Xinhua news agency said on Thursday, April 20, reporting the country's 12th H5N1 virus death since November. There have been more than 30 outbreaks in poultry in a dozen provinces over the past year in China, making it one of the countries worst-hit by a virus that has spread with surprising speed this year, with outbreaks in more than 30 countries. The victim as a 21-year-old migrant worker who worked as a security guard in Wuhan, capital of the central province of Hubei. Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/PEK26929.htm>
29. *April 20, Ireland Online* — **Bird flu hard to catch, but deadly, says new research.** In one of the largest studies of its kind, scientists in Cambodia took blood samples from 351 people in a small village where one of the country's six bird flu deaths traced to the H5N1 virus was confirmed. They found no antibodies for H5N1 in any of the specimens, indicating nobody became infected, having either recovered after falling only mildly ill or displayed no symptoms whatsoever. The results mirror similar studies conducted in Vietnam, Thailand and Indonesia — where the virus has shown up in birds and the people it has infected, but left few other clues. While experts stress more research is needed to determine the disease's true virulence, the research strengthens the World Health Organization's grim assessment that H5N1 kills about 56 percent of those infected. The authors said they expected to find bird flu antibodies in at

least two percent of the people they sampled, and were baffled why only one farmer became infected and died in the March 2005 outbreak. Dead birds were reported in the village in Cambodia's southern Kampot province and the H5N1 virus was detected in poultry there. Many villagers surveyed said they had very close, daily contact with the birds.

Source: <http://breakingnews.iol.ie/news/story.asp?j=180025058&p=y8xx z5764>

30. *April 19, New York Times* — **Mumps epidemic spreads, more vaccine is promised.** In the largest mumps outbreak in the U.S. in more than 20 years, almost 1,000 people have contracted the disease in the Midwest, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced Wednesday, April 19. The epidemic began in Iowa, where the State Department of Public Health has reported 815 suspected or confirmed cases. It has spread to at least seven other states. Because of the effectiveness of the vaccine introduced in 1967, most people think of the mumps as an illness that had been eradicated. About half of the cases in Iowa involve college-age students, most of whom have been vaccinated. Federal and state health investigators have not pinpointed the origin of the epidemic, but the first cases were identified in December on a college campus. Julie Gerberding, director of the CDC, said the disease had spread quickly because of the dense concentration of students in affected cities and because the vaccine is not perfect. It has about an 80 percent efficacy rate for people who have been inoculated with one dose, and a rate of about 90 percent for people who have received two doses. Gerberding said the CDC was providing an additional 50,000 doses of the mumps vaccine.

Mumps information: <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/diseases/mumps/default.htm>

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/04/20/health/20mumps.html?ex=1145678400&en=0b47161f8893e7aa&ei=5087%0A>

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

31. *April 20, Tampa Tribune* — **Drill simulates conditions expected during avian flu pandemic.** It was a first in U.S. disaster planning Wednesday, April 19, as local emergency management and health officials in Florida, working alongside a federal disaster team, simulated conditions expected if an avian flu pandemic were to occur. The exercise brought employees from 22 local, state and federal agencies together, working to identify variables that might hinder Hillsborough County's ability to deal with such a crisis. The drill, in another first, was transmitted via satellite to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta and Washington, DC, so health officials could watch in real time. The main challenge that arose — providing better management of patients and their needs — was met by opening additional triage stations at an alternate treatment facility at the Florida State Fairgrounds. The exercise assumed conditions expected six weeks into a national outbreak. Hospitals would be at capacity and turning patients away. Alternate sites would be established. Security would be increased to

quell panic and deal with the "walking worried," people who might fear they are infected but really aren't sick.

Source: <http://news.tbo.com/news/metro/MGBIJB2I8ME.html>

32. *April 20, Basehor Sentinel (KS)* — Kansas city receives emergency response plan critique.

Disaster can strike at any time, and officials are taking steps to ensure Basehor, KS, is prepared. On Monday, April 17, Basehor Police Chief Terry Horner, along with Chuck Magaha from Leavenworth County Emergency Management, presented results of a test of the Basehor Emergency Management Plan at a City Council work session. On March 21 about 13 city, county and state officials participated in the mock scenario. The exercise showed what might happen if a tornado hit Basehor, causing minor damage. Horner explained that a state representative observed the meeting to critique the written plan. Strengths of the plan included a strong overall basic plan, partnership among agencies involved and commitment to the plan. One weakness noted was citizen education and preparedness. Council member Keith Sifford said several citizens of Basehor claimed they are not able to hear the tornado warning sirens while inside their homes. Magaha said the sirens sound at about 125 decibels at a three mile radius. Thicker insulation, along with modern technologies such as big screen televisions and surround-sound systems, have made the sirens harder to hear inside a home.

Source: <http://www.basehorinfo.com/section/news/story/7500>

33. *April 20, Washington Post* — Maryland working on disaster plans. Maryland emergency managers are preparing a new statewide system of evacuation zones, with the hurricane season officially starting June 1. Working with local officials, they hope to broadly publicize which low-lying and coastal areas are designated for evacuation during severe storms, said John W. Droneburg, director of the Maryland Emergency Management Administration. They are looking to Florida's system as a model. "We want to make it obvious to people," said Droneburg, adding that officials plan to mark primary evacuation areas throughout the state with signs. A uniform evacuation system, which Maryland currently lacks, would help state officials to quickly assess "how many people are going in one direction or another, how many need to be sheltered from one area in another area," he said. State officials also are reviewing evacuation plans for Ocean City and other Eastern Shore communities.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/04/19/AR2006041900932.html>

34. *April 19, KATU TV (OR)* — Tsunami drill conducted along Oregon coast. Tsunami sirens sounded Wednesday afternoon, April 19, in Seaside, OR, sending residents scrambling for higher ground. But it was just a drill. For emergency officials, the goal was to see how large groups of people coped with moving a mile in twenty minutes. To increase efficiency, police diverted vehicle traffic to keep primary streets clear for pedestrians heading to safe areas. Seaside Mayor Don Larson said the main concern for the latest drill was to see if they could evacuate all local school children to the safety area within 20 minutes. The effort seemed to meet with success.

Source: <http://www.katu.com/news/story.asp?ID=85189>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

35. *April 19, Security Focus* — **Cisco IOS XR MPLS denial-of-service vulnerability.** Multiple Multi Protocol Label Switching (MPLS) related vulnerabilities exist on Cisco IOS XR. Only systems that are running Cisco IOS XR and configured for MPLS are affected by these vulnerabilities. Analysis: Upon successful exploitation a Modular Services Card (MSC) on a Cisco Carrier Routing System 1 or a Line Card on a Cisco 12000 series router may reload affecting switched traffic. A successful attack results in a denial-of-service condition for traffic that is being switched on an affected MSC or line card. Vulnerable: Cisco IOS XR for PRP 3.2.3; Cisco IOS XR for CRS-1 3.2.3; Cisco IOS XR 3.2.50; Cisco IOS XR 3.2.4; Cisco IOS XR 3.2.4; Cisco IOS XR 3.2.2; Cisco IOS XR 3.2.1; Cisco IOS XR 3.2. Cisco IOS XR 3.3.0 is not vulnerable to this issue.
Solution: Cisco has released an advisory to address this issue:
<http://www.securityfocus.com/archive/1/431359>
Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/17607/discuss>
36. *April 19, SophosLabs* — **Hefty fine for man who marketed bogus anti-spyware software.** SophosLabs reports a man has been fined almost \$84,000 for marketing a bogus anti-spyware program, but has warned Web surfers that there are many other fake protection products being unethically promoted on the Internet. Zhijian Chen of Portland, OR, was found to have made thousands of dollars by sending spam messages that fooled people into believing that their computers were infected by spyware, and claiming that a product called "Spyware Cleaner" was the cure. According to court documents, Chen sent out e-mails and advertisements promoting the "Spyware Cleaner" software in exchange for a 75 percent commission on each \$49.95 sale.
Source: http://www.sophos.com/pressoffice/news/articles/2006/04/spyw_arechen.html
37. *April 19, CNET News* — **Danger: Authenticating e-mail can break it.** The promise of e-mail authentication is too good to ignore, but if it is implemented incorrectly it will break a company's mail system instead of fixing it, experts have cautioned. "Deploy smart. Don't just do it," Erik Johnson, a secure messaging executive at Bank of America, said in a presentation at the Authentication Summit Wednesday, April 19. "If you just do it, you may just break it." For the past two years, the technology industry has been advocating the use of systems to guarantee the identity of e-mail senders. It sees such authentication as key to the fight against spam and phishing, as it should help improve mail filters and make it harder for senders to forge their addresses. The industry also likes to advertise that these systems have practically no cost. The key problem for large companies is figuring out all the systems that send e-mail on their behalf, said Paul Judge, chief technology officer at e-mail security company CipherTrust. "If you are a large multinational organization, you may have e-mail gateways in 10 countries, you may have marketing companies that send e-mail on your behalf," he said.
Source: http://news.com.com/Danger+Authenticating+e-mail+can+break+it/2100-7349_3-6062953.html?tag=nefd.lede
38. *April 19, Reuters* — **Russia calls for unity to fight Internet crime.** The world should unite against online criminals because they could cause as much harm as deadly weapons, Russia's interior minister said on Wednesday, April 19. Russian hackers are notorious, and the country is often identified as a center for extortion from Internet bookmakers, banks and other businesses. Several damaging viruses are believed to have originated in Russia. Interior Minister Rashid Nurgaliyev said the frequency of such attacks was increasing, with potentially catastrophic

consequences.

Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=D0MGLIXG0NEWAQSNDBECKHSCJUMEKJVN?articleID=186100209>

39. *April 18, eSecurity Planet* — **Hackers issue own 'patch' to infected computers.** The gang of virus writers behind the virulent Bagle family of worms has issued a patch to its malicious code. This past Sunday, April 16, computers infected with several different variants of the Bagle worm began downloading an updated version — a new spam tool used by hackers to send out unwanted bulk e-mail. "They've programmed the virus to contact the central Website to see if there's an update available and if there is, they will download and run this new malicious code. This technique — we call it second-state activation — is a way the virus writers can add additional programs and run them on the infected machines," says Mikko Hypponen chief research officer for F-Secure Corp.

Source: <http://www.esecurityplanet.com/article.php/3599831>

Internet Alert Dashboard

DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis

Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.

US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis: US-CERT is aware of publicly available exploit code and materials explaining how to exploit a race condition vulnerability in Sendmail. Sendmail improperly handles asynchronous signals causing a race condition vulnerability. Successful exploitation may allow a remote, unauthenticated attacker to execute arbitrary commands with the privileges of the user. For more information please review the following:

TA06-081A – Sendmail Race Condition Vulnerability

<http://www.us-cert.gov/cas/techalerts/TA06-081A.html>

VU#834865 – Sendmail contains a race condition

<http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/834865>

Sendmail MTA Security Vulnerability Advisory

<http://www.sendmail.com/company/advisory/>

US-CERT recommends the following actions to mitigate the security risks:

Upgrade to the latest version: Sendmail 8.13.6.

<http://www.sendmail.org/releases/8.13.6.html>

Review the Sendmail MTA Security Vulnerability Advisory for steps to reduce the impact of this vulnerability. <http://www.sendmail.com/company/advisory/#mitigation>

US-CERT is not aware of any working exploit code at this time.

Phishing Scams

US-CERT continues to receive reports of phishing scams that target online users and Federal government web sites. US-CERT encourages users to report phishing incidents based on the following guidelines:

Federal Agencies should report phishing incidents to US-CERT.

http://www.us-cert.gov/nav/report_phishing.html

Non-federal agencies and other users should report phishing incidents to Federal Trade Commissions OnGuard Online. <http://onguardonline.gov/phishing.html>

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (win-rpc), 445 (microsoft-ds), 32459 (----), 50497 (----), 34285 (----), 2633 (interintelli), 6881 (bittorrent), 53112 (----), 56431 (----), 80 (www) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center
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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

40. April 20, News & Observer (NC) — North Carolina's Wake County malls at risk of terrorism. Under a recent federal program, North Carolina state and local police have drawn up a list of sites that are considered at risk of a terrorist attack. In Wake County, the list of 10 sites includes three malls: Cary Towne Center, Crabtree Valley Mall, and Triangle Town Center. It also includes other places where large groups of people regularly gather. The list was provided to Wake County commissioners Monday, April 17, when staff discussed a \$500,000 federal grant to pay for security improvements at the sites, such as the RBC Center, home of the Carolina Hurricanes. In Wake, the money will pay for more surveillance equipment, new security software, machines that detect dangerous chemicals, bomb-sniffing dogs, infrared cameras, and equipment to safely dispose of explosives.

Source: <http://www.newsobserver.com/102/story/430548.html>

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General Sector

Nothing to report.

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Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282–9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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